

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this Amendment, claims 2-8, 10, 13, 15-19, 21, and 24-26 are amended, claim 27 is new and claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20, 22 and 23 remain unchanged. Claims 1-27 are pending. An Abstract is attached on a separate sheet. No new matter is added.

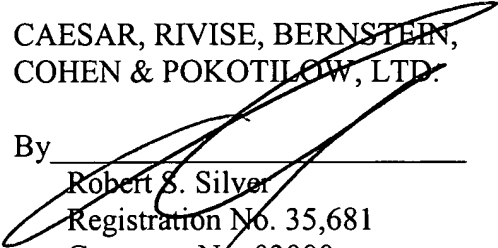
This Amendment is submitted to better conform the application to United States practice.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in good form for initial examination on the merits. Accordingly, prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for initial examination and allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 18, 2004

Please charge or credit our  
Account No. 03-0075 as necessary  
to effect entry and/or ensure  
consideration of this submission.